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*The Unknown.* CAMILLE FLAMMARION. New York and London, Harper & Brothers, 1900. Pp. xii + 488. \$2.00.

*Brief Guide to the Commoner Butterflies of the Northern United States and Canada.* SAMUEL HUBBARD SCUDDER. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1899. Pp. xi + 210.

*Commercial Organic Analysis.* ALFRED H. ALLEN. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1900. Vol. II., Part II. Pp. viii + 330.

*Inorganic Evolution as studied by Spectrum Analysis.* New York and London, The Macmillan Co., 1900. Pp. x + 191. \$1.75.

#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

THE March number of the *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* contains the following articles: 'Mathematical instruction in France,' by Professor James Pierpont; a review, by Professor E. W. Brown, of Poincaré's *Cinématique et Mécanismes*, *Potential et Mécanique des Fluides*; 'Shorter Notices'; 'Notes'; and 'New Publications.' The April number of the *Bulletin* contains a report of the February meeting of the Society, by the Secretary; 'Some theorems concerning linear differential equations of the second order,' by Professor Maxime Bôcher; 'Note on the enumeration of the roots of the hypergeometric series between zero and one,' by Dr. M. B. Porter; 'The summer meeting of the Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung, at Munich, September, 1899,' by Professor James Pierpont; reviews of Hilbert's *Grundlagen der Geometrie*, by Dr. J. Sommer, and of König's *Leçons de Cinématique*, by Professor E. O. Lovett; 'Notes'; and 'New Publications.'

THE *Journal of the Boston Society of Medical Sciences* for March 20th, is largely devoted to abstracts of the papers read at the first meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists, held at New Haven, Dec. 27-30, 1899. Several of these dealt with the question of purification of sewage and contamination of water supply. Charles S. Minot has a paper 'On the Solid Stage of the Large Intestine in the Chick, with a Note on the Ganglion Coli.' W. T. Councilman discusses 'The Lobule of the Lung and its Relation to the Lymphatics,' and Thomas

Dwight notes a case of 'Absence of the Inferior Vena Cava below the Diaphragm.'

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE annual stated session of the National Academy of Sciences was held in Washington, April 17-19, 1900, with Dr. Wolcott Gibbs in the chair, and the following members in attendance: Messrs. Abbe, Agassiz, Allen, Barus, Beecher, Bell, Billings, Boss, Brewer, Brooks, Brush, Chandler (S. C.), Chittenden, Comstock (G. B.), Dall, Dana, Dutton, Elkin, Emmons, Farlow, Gibbs (W.), Gilbert, Gill, Hague, Hall, Hill (G. W.), Langley, Mitchell (S. W.), Morse, Powell, Putnam, Remsen, Rowland, Schott, Smith (E. F.), Walcott, Welch, White and Wilson.

The resignation of Dr. Wolcott Gibbs as President of the Academy was reluctantly accepted to take effect at the close of the session. His successor will be elected at the next April session.

Six additional members of the Council were chosen for the ensuing year, as follows: Messrs. J. S. Billings, H. P. Bowditch, G. J. Brush, Wolcott Gibbs, Arnold Hague, Simon Newcomb.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Academy: James E. Keeler, Director of the Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, Cal.; Henry F. Osborn, of Columbia University, New York City; Samuel L. Penfield, of Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; Franz Boas, of Columbia University, New York City.

The Academy adopted a report from the Trustees of the Barnard Medal recommending that the medal be awarded to Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen for his discovery of the X-rays. This medal is awarded at the close of every quinquennial period to such person as shall, within the five years next preceding, have made such discovery in physical or astronomical science, or made such novel application of science to purposes beneficial to the human race, as, in the judgment of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, shall be esteemed most worthy of such honor.

Mr. Agassiz offered to give to the Academy